Court stay orders against Zonal Railways

2233. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of catering/vending/bookstall contractors on each Zonal Railway have obtained stay orders from different courts of law against the decision of enhancement of the licence fee/royalty, etc.; and

(b) if so, what are the details, with names of stations, Division-wise, on each Zonal Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir.

With a view to rationalise the licence fee for catering/vending licences, Ministry of Railways had uniformly revised the licence fee *w.e.f* 1.7.1999.

The Indian Railway Caterers Association filed a Writ Petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in the month of January 2000 and obtained a stay order against implementation of the revised licence fee. Few catering/vending licencees over other zonal railways have also filed separate Writ Petitions in various Courts of law and obtained stay orders. However, the Hon'ble High Courts of Mumbai, Jabalpur and Kerala have vacated the stay orders and upheld the decision taken by the Ministry of Railways in this regard.

Station-wise details of court cases are not available as cases are filed jointly by Associations of catering/vending licencees as well as by individual licencees operating pantry cars and static units at stations.

Encroachment of Railway land in Maharashtra

2234. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large areas of Railway land have been encroached at different places in Maharashtra;

(b) whether all such land has been identified;